

LOWER SALMON VILLAGE (PWS # 5240015) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

April 14, 2003



State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Executive Summary

Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is completing the assessments for all Idaho public drinking water systems. The assessment for your particular drinking water source is based on a land use inventory within a 1,000-foot radius of your drinking water source, sensitivity factors associated with the source, and characteristics associated with either your aquifer or watershed in which you live.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Lower Salmon Village: Public Water System (PWS) #5240015* describes the public drinking water system, the associated potential contaminant sources located within a 1,000-foot boundary around the drinking water source, and the susceptibility that may be associated with any associated potential contaminants. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this system. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and is not intended to undermine the confidence in your water system.**

The Lower Salmon Village drinking water system consists of one spring, Spring #1. The system serves approximately 30 people through 8 connections.

Final susceptibility scores are derived from System Construction scores and Potential Contaminant/Land Use scores. Potential Contaminants/Land Uses are divided into four categories, inorganic contaminants (IOCs, e.g. nitrates, arsenic), volatile organic contaminants (VOCs, e.g. petroleum products), synthetic organic contaminants (SOCs, e.g. pesticides), and microbial contaminants (e.g. bacteria). As different wells can be subject to various contamination settings, separate scores are given for each type of contaminant.

In terms of overall susceptibility, the system rated moderate susceptibility for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbial contaminants. System construction rated high. Land use scores rated moderate for IOCs, and low for VOCs, SOCs, and microbial contaminants. No VOCs, SOCs, or microbials have ever been detected in tested water.

A sanitary survey conducted in 2001 considered this spring is substantial compliance with drinking water regulations. Water tests have detected nitrates in concentrations less than 3 parts per million (ppm), significantly less than the EPA's maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 ppm. The spring exists within a county of high nitrogen fertilizer, herbicide, and agricultural chemical usage.

Based on the initial computer generated contaminant source inventory conducted by the DEQ, there is one potential contaminant source located within the 1,000-foot boundary. This information has been summarized and included in Table 1. A copy of the susceptibility analysis worksheet for your system along with a map showing any potential contaminant sources is included with this summary.

Table 1. Lower Salmon Village, Potential Contaminant Inventory

SITE #	Source Description ¹	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants ²
	Snake River	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbials

²IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Susceptibility Analysis

The water system's susceptibility to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants.

Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

Spring Construction

Spring construction directly affects the ability of the intake to protect the aquifer from contaminants. The Idaho Administrative Code for Public Drinking Water Systems (IDAPA 58.01.08.04) states that springs which supply water for a public water system served by one or more springs shall ensure that the following requirements are met:

- a. Springs shall be housed in a permanent structure and protected from contamination including the entry of surface water, animals, and dust;
- b. A sample tap shall be provided;
- c. A flow meter or other flow measuring device shall be provided; and
- d. The entire area within one hundred (100) feet of the spring shall be owned by the supplier of water or controlled by a long term lease, fenced to prevent trespass of livestock, and void of buildings, dwellings and sources of contamination. Surface water and drainage ditches shall be diverted from this area.

With regards to this report, spring construction was evaluated by answering two questions: 1. Is the intake structure of the spring located and constructed to Idaho Code; 2. Is the water collected in such a manner that it is not exposed to any surface related contaminants before it enters the distribution system?

The spring rated high for construction. A sample tap and flow meter are not present at the springbox. In addition, the 1994 Sanitary Survey noted that the springbox lid needed to be sealed to prevent dust or rodents from contaminating the collected water. It is unknown if that situation was corrected.

Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use

The spring rated moderate for IOCs (e.g., arsenic, nitrate), and low for VOCs (e.g., petroleum products), SOC's (e.g., pesticides), and microbial contaminants (e.g., bacteria). The small number of potential contaminant sites and the high amount of county wide agriculture contributed to the scores.

Final Susceptibility Rating

An IOC detection above a drinking water limit, any detection of a VOC or SOC, or a detection of total coliform bacteria or fecal coliform bacteria at the wellhead will automatically give a high susceptibility rating to a spring, despite the land use of the area, because a pathway for contamination already exists. Additionally, having potential contaminant sources within 100 feet of the spring will give an automatic high susceptibility rating.

If an automatic high rating is not received, overall system ratings are derived by system construction scores and potential contaminant sources in the 0- to 3-year time-of-travel zone (Zone 1B).

In this case, the Lower Salmon Village water system rated moderate for IOCs, VOCs, SOC's, and low for microbial contaminants.

Options for Drinking Water Protection

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For Lower Salmon Village, drinking water protection activities should focus on ensuring compliance with the 2000 sanitary survey and minimizing spills or releases associated with the Snake River within the designated source water area. In addition, a more favorable rating could be achieved if the system was confirmed to be compliant with the Idaho regulations for Public Drinking Water Systems. Partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. You may want to establish a dialog with the relevant state and local agencies related to the Snake River.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the EPA. For areas where transportation corridors transect the delineation, the Idaho Department of Transportation should be included in protection activities. Drinking water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Commission, the local Soil Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Assistance

Public water suppliers and others may call the following DEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the DEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

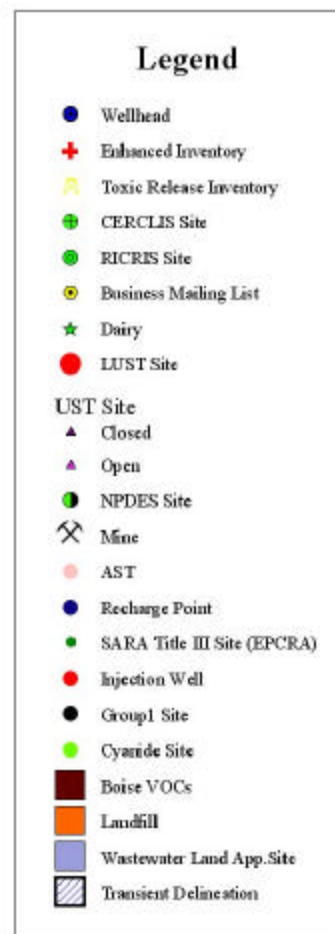
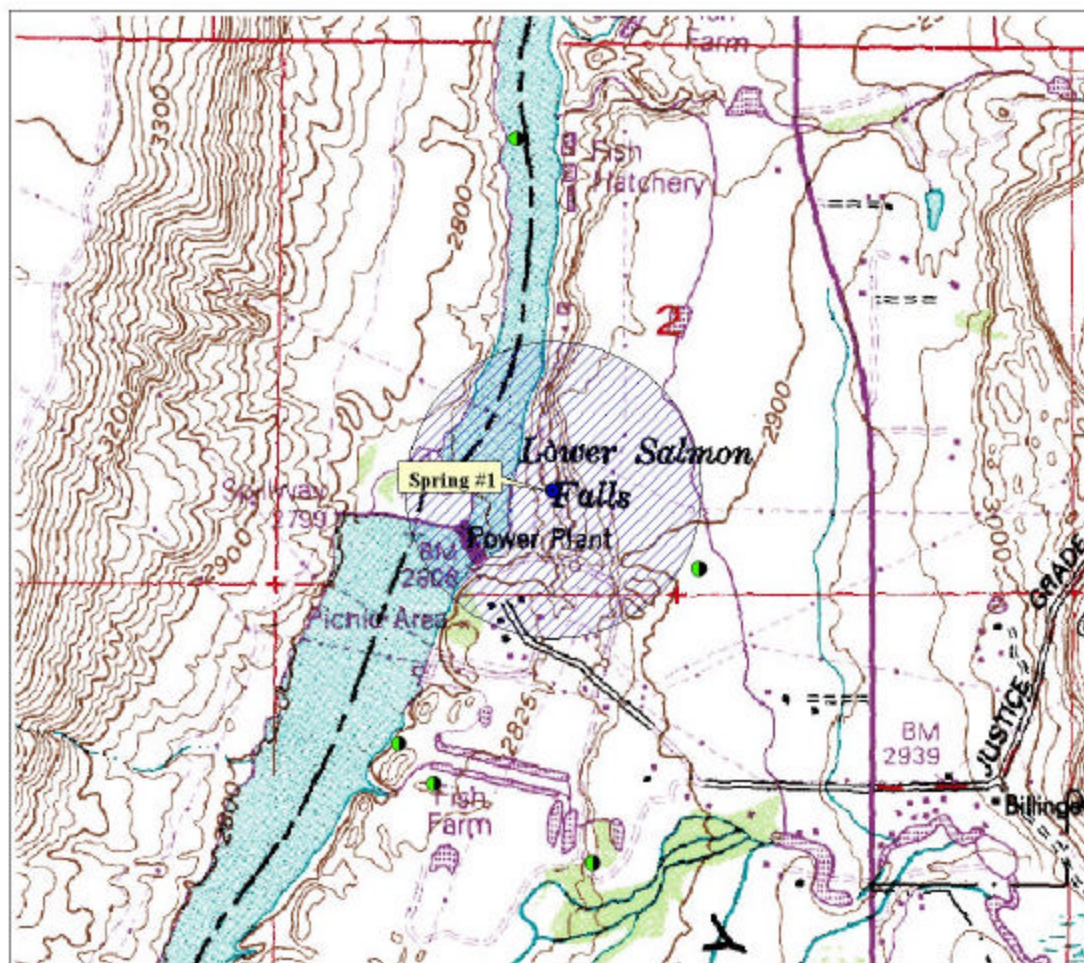
Twin Falls Regional DEQ Office (208) 736-2190

State DEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact Melinda Harper, mlharper@idahoruralwater.com, Idaho Rural Water Association, at 208-343-7001 for assistance with drinking water protection (formerly wellhead protection) strategies.

Lower Salmon Village Idaho Power Company: Spring #1 PWS Number: 5240015



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0 2000 4000 Feet



POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund, is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100-year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by IDEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.

References Cited

Central District Health Department, 2001. Public Water System Sanitary Survey Report for Lower Salmon Village.

Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers, 1997. "*Recommended Standards for Water Works.*"

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 1997. *Design Standards for Public Drinking Water Systems*. IDAPA 58.01.08.550.01.

Idaho Department of Water Resources, 1993. *Administrative Rules of the Idaho Water Resource Board: Well Construction Standards Rules*. IDAPA 37.03.09.

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC/Microbial Final Score = System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.818)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 7 Low Susceptibility

8 - 14 Moderate Susceptibility

≥ 15 High Susceptibility

1. System Construction

SCORE

Intake structure and area constructed to meet Idaho Code NO

1

Does the water enter the distribution system without contacting the atmosphere

YES = lower score, NO = higher score

YES

2

Total System Construction Score

3

2. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

IOC
ScoreVOC
ScoreSOC
ScoreMicrobial
Score

Land Use Zone 1A

DRYLAND AGRICULTURE

1

1

1

1

Farm chemical use high

YES

2

2

2

IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A

3

3

3

1

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)

YES

1

1

1

1

(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum

2

2

2

2

Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or

YES

3

1

1

4 Points Maximum

3

1

1

Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area

NO

0

0

0

0

Land use Zone 1B

25 to 50% Non-Irrigated Agricultural Land

1

1

1

1

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B

6

4

4

3

Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score

9

7

7

4

3. Final Spring Ranking

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate

Low